

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

February 3, 2009

**AMENDMENT TO AGENDA NO. 30**

The Mental Health Services Act Information Technology Plan ("MHSA IT Plan") will allow the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to reengineer the way it delivers mental health services and significantly improve the flow of information throughout the County's mental health system. A major component of the MHSA IT Plan is the Integrated Behavioral Health Information System (IBHIS). This electronic mental health records system will eventually exchange clinical, administrative, and financial information between DMH and its many widespread contract providers.

DMH has overlapping clients with multiple County departments, and routinely coordinates services with them. These include the Department of Health Services, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Public Social Services and Probation. These, and other departments, have developed, or are developing, their own electronic records and client management systems.

Furthermore, President Barack Obama has included in his Economic Stimulus Plan nearly \$20 billion for electronic health records and other health information technology with the

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Molina \_\_\_\_\_

Ridley-Thomas \_\_\_\_\_

Yaroslavsky \_\_\_\_\_

Antonovich \_\_\_\_\_

Knabe \_\_\_\_\_

hopes of improving patient care, cutting red tape, preventing mistakes and reducing healthcare costs. Los Angeles County must put itself in the best possible position to acquire and leverage these federal funds to achieve an integrated Countywide electronic health records system. We must ensure from the inception that any new electronic health records system proposed by DMH properly interfaces and is compatible with other County systems and the national medical records system to be developed.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Instruct the Department of Mental Health, in conjunction with the Chief Information Officer (CIO), to provide periodic reports prior to seeking Board approval for a contractor for an electronic records system on how they plan to have IBHIS interface with future and existing County departments with which they coordinate services, as well as how the proposed system will be compatible with the national medical records system which is to be developed.

I further move that DMH and the CIO work with the Chief Executive Office to develop a plan to ensure compatibility of future and existing County electronic health records systems while positioning the County to take full advantage of health information technology funds being proposed under the Economic Stimulus Plan.

ALV/jp